THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Value added services in Andhra Pradesh

The following Value Added Services are expected to be available in Andhra Pradesh during 1994-95:—

(i) Radio Paging Service.

Tenders were invited in July, 1992 from the registered Indian companies for operation of Radio Paging Services on a non-exclusive basis for 27 cities of India. Hyderabad and Vishakapatnam were also included in the tender, Four companies for Hyderabad and 3 companies for Visakhapatnam have been shortlisted for operation of this service. One company for Hyderabad and two companies for Vishakapatnam have already signed the licence agreement and it is expected that this service will be available in these cities during 1994-95.

Tenders have also been invited for operation of Radio Paging Service for-18 territorial circles for rest of the country including Andhra Pradesh Circle.

(ii) Electronic Mail Services.

The Department has issued 17 letters of intent to operatte Electronic Mail Service on all India basis. Four companies have already signed the licence agreement. As per the licence agreement, the licensee has to provide the service within one year of signing the agreement.

(iii) 64 KBPS Data Service via Satellite.

7 companies have been given letters of intent for the operation of 64 KBPS Data Service via Satellite on all India basis and out of these seven, one company has already signed the licence agreement. As per the licence agreement, the licensee has to provide the service within one year of signing the agreement.

2. In addition to the above, new services like Audiotex, Video Conferencing. Voice Mail. Cellular Mobile Telephone Service etc. are also being licensed on a non-exclusive basis.

Orders to indigeneous telecom component industry

1908. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to place orders to indigeneous telecom component industry which make cost effective, climate suitable and cheaper components in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Department of Telecom is procuring only finished telecom equipments and not the components. The components are being procured directly by the manufacturers and as such there is no proposal under consideration of Department of Telecommunications.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Indian telecom switches

1909. SHRI MD. SALIM:

SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian telecom switches are cheaper and suitable for country's climate than imported ones; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Switching Equipment is procured through open tenders from companies registered to manufacture equipment (including transfer of Tecnoligy) in India and having RBI clearance to do so & are paid for in Indian Rupees. Switches procured have to meet quality standards set by the department including climatic one.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Threat of closure faced by Telecom Component manufacturers

1910. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI :

SHRI E. BALANANDAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be plased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several telecom component manufacturers are without orders for the last one year and facing closures; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Government has not received any information regarding telecom component manufacturer being wihout orders and facing closure.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Restoration of disrupted Telephone Services

1911. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the telephone services have been disrupted in several parts of the country due to floods, rain and cyclone; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken to restore the telephone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). No serious disruption of service has occurred in the country during this rainy season. Breakdowns of cables are being attended round the clock under the personal supervision of field officers and these are being monitored on daily basis at the highest level in the Circles as well as in the Telecom Directorate, New Delhi.

Automatic Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

1912. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Automatic Telephone Exchanges in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to increase the number of Automatic Telephone Exchanges in the country;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard in Orissa during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the projections made for Nineth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) 661: As on 30-6-94.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) So far, during the Eighth Plan 124 number of Automatic Exchanges have been added up to 30-6-94 and 99 more—are likely to be opened by the end of Eighth Plan in Orissa.

(d) Estimated demand for telephones in Orissa Circle is likely to reach 308900 by the year 2002 AD.

Shortage of Instruments in MTNL

1913. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has been facing acute shortage of equipments to be installed in the telephone exchanges due to which delay is caused in replacement of old exchanges;

(b) if so the steps taken to overcome the problems; and

(c) the details of the remedial measures taken by the MTNL and Government?